

Decision to Lease

DECISION

Approximately 246,795.87 acres of public lands (145 parcels) generally available for oil and gas leasing under Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land use plans were nominated for the oil and gas lease sale scheduled to be held on February 20, 2007.

Based on findings, determinations, and recommendations from the BLM, Utah Field Office Managers, I have decided to offer approximately 128,133.05 acres on 79 parcels of BLM-administered lands with appropriate conditions and stipulations.

RATIONALE FOR THE DECISION

The lands to be offered are identified by parcel number on the attached list which identifies the specific conditions, terms, stipulations and notices applicable to each parcel.

All of the parcels have been reviewed to determine if existing planning and NEPA documents adequately address the issues and environmental consequences of leasing at this time. My decision to offer parcels is based on the findings and recommendations made in the relevant field offices' Determinations of NEPA Adequacy (DNAs) and modifications made by the Utah State Office Energy Support Team.

This decision also includes the offering of three parcels located within the boundaries of the Vernal Field Office which were awarded to the high bidder at the November 21, 2006 lease sale, but the high bidder failed to make the required payment for the remaining bonus bid. The documentation to support leasing these parcels is contained in the administrative record for the November 21, 2006 lease sale. The three parcels added to the list of lands being offered with different parcel numbers are as follows:

UT1106-258 was converted to UT0207-128A
UT1106-261 was converted to UT0207-128B
UT1106-323 was converted to UT0207-134A

Approved: /s/ Kent Hoffman
Kent Hoffman
Deputy State Director
Division of Lands and Minerals

Date: January 5, 2007